

2 Mental or intellectual power, as an inherent faculty or as developed; (a) talent; a mental faculty. LME.

G. BURNETT He was capacity to relish what true piety is. ISAIAH BENJAMIN The more mysterious capacities called 'insight' and 'intuition'.

3 Legal competency or qualification. LME.
legal capacity: see legal adjective.

4 A containing space or area; a void; a cavity. M16-M18.

5 An ability, power, or propensity for some specified purpose, activity, or experience; a susceptibility, a possibility. (Roll. by of, for, to do.) M17.

DUE TO deprive them of the capacity of ever retaining. S. BURTON We are endowed with Capacities of action, of happiness and misery. H. L. MCGEE There was grave uneasiness about his physical capacity for the job. M. SMITH It was within the capacity of his ship to execute. E. KESTER It was not that boy had ever laid a hand on her but the capacity was there.

6 A position, a condition, a relative character. M17.

G. K. CHRISTIAN The King reviewed it in his capacity as literary critic. G. GARDNER I was working for him in a secretarial capacity.

► **As an adjective.** That reaches or fills maximum capacity; fully occupying. M20.

Times Lit. Suppl. Both the play and film are now drawing capacity houses in London. F. ASHLEY Business was capacity wherever we went.

cap-a-pie /kə'pi:/ *adverb*, arch. E16.
[ORIGIN Old French *cap a pie* (mod. *de pied en cap*).]
From head to foot, fully (armed, ready, etc.).

caparison /kə'pærɪs(ə)n/ *noun*, Now arch. or hist. E16.
[ORIGIN French *caparison* (mod. *caparison*) from Spanish *caparazón* saddlecloth, perh. from *capra*.]
1 An ornamented covering spread over a horse's saddle or harness; (usu. in pl.) horse's trappings. E16.
2 *trans.* A set of clothes or ornaments, an outfit. US.

caparison /kə'pærɪs(ə)n/ *verb trans.* E16.
[ORIGIN French *caparisonner*, formed as *caparison* noun.]
Put trappings or hangings on; deck.

capataz /kə'pɑ:tə/ *noun*, Pl. *-taz* /-təz/. E19.
[ORIGIN Spanish, irreg. from Latin *caput* head.]
In Spain or Spanish-speaking America: an overseer, a superintendent, a boss.

cape /keɪp/ *noun*, LME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French *cap* from Provençal (= Spanish *capo*) from Proto-Romance from Latin *caput* head.]
► **1 gen.** 1 A headland, a promontory. LME.
► **2 spec.** 2 The Cape, some familiar headland, esp. (the province containing) the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. M17.

3 More fully *capeshin*. A soft leather made from South African sheepskin. E20.

— **COMB.** Cape Barren goose [Cape Barren, an island in Bass Strait, Australia] a large Australian goose, *Cereopsis monocollaris*, which has a short black bill that is almost covered by a swollen waxy yellow cere; also called *cereopsis* (goose); Cape brandy 5. Afr. brandy made from vines in the Cape; crude brandy; Cape buffalo: see buffalo noun 1b; Cape cart 5. Afr. a two-wheeled horse-drawn cart; Cape chestnut a southern African evergreen tree, *Carobolus capensis*, of the rue family; Cape Cod 11. Amer. (designating) a type of rectangular house with a steeply gabled roof, characteristic of Cape Cod, Massachusetts; Cape Coloured 5. Afr. a person of mixed ethnic descent living in the province of Western Cape; Cape cowslip = *Lachenalia*; Cape daisy a yellow-flowered plant of the composite family, *Arctostaphylos*, native to southern Africa and widely introduced as an ornamental; Cape doctor 5. Afr. a strong south-east wind; Cape Dutch noun & adjective (a) noun the early Dutch settlers at the Cape of Good Hope; (b) adjective of or pertaining to the Cape Dutch; spec. designating a style of architecture characterized by gables and whitewashed walls; Cape fox a fox, *Vulpes chama*, with a silvery-grey back, occurring in the drier areas of southern Africa; Cape gannet: see gannet 1; Cape gooseberry a S. American physalis or ground cherry, *Physalis peruviana*; the edible round yellow berry of this plant; Cape hawkfish; Cape hunting dog = hunting dog (b) s.v. hunting dog; Cape hawkfish; Cape jasmine: see jasmine noun 1; Cape marigold = *Tagetes*; Cape pigeon: see pigeon noun 1; Cape poinsettia a southern African aquatic plant, *Aponogeton distachyos*, with two spikes of fragrant white flowers; Cape primrose = *Streptocarpus*; Cape salmon 5. Afr. any of various fishes; esp. = *Gobius*; Cape shark: see shark 3 above; Cape smoke: see smoke noun 7a; Cape sparrow a dark-colored sparrow of southern Africa, *Passer melanurus*; Cape-weed any of various plants; esp. (Austral. & NZ) = *Cape daisy* above.

cape /kə'pi:/ *noun*, M16.
[ORIGIN French from Provençal *cape* (= Old French & mod. French *cape*) from late Latin *caput*: see cap noun 1.]
1 A short (formerly also a long) sleeveless cloak; a fixed or detachable part of a longer cloak, coat, etc., falling loosely over the shoulders from the neckband; spec. the red cloak used by a bullfighter. M16.

2 *trans.* A growth of feathers or hair suggesting a cape. E19.

► **As an adjective.** Having a cape, wearing a cape. M16. *capelet* noun a small cape. E20.

verb trans. E16-M19.
[ORIGIN late perh. ult. rel. to French *cap* head of the ship.]
Innuit. Of a vessel or its crew: head, bear.

capeador /kə'peɪdər/ *noun*, E20.
[ORIGIN Spanish, from *capen* 'trick a bull with a cape, from *capa*.]
A person who aids a bullfighter by distracting the bull with his cloak.

capeesh /kə'pi:ʃ/ *interjection*, slang (chiefly US). M20.
[ORIGIN Italian *capisce* 3 sing. pres. indic. of *capire* 'understand'.]
Do you understand? Get it?
P. AUSTIN Upstairs is off limits. Capeesh?

capelin /'kæplɪn/ *noun*, Also *caplin*. E17.
[ORIGIN French from Provençal *capelin* CHAPLAIN.]
A smelt, *Mallotus villosus*, of northern oceans.

capeline /'kæplɪn/ *noun*, LME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French from Provençal *capeline*, from *capit* hat (= mod. French *chapeau*).]
1 hat. An iron skullcap worn by medieval archers. LME.
2 A woman's hat, esp. one with a wide brim trimmed with feathers. Also, a light hood with an attached cape. US.

capellane /'kæplɪn/ *noun*, Long obsolete exc. hist. OE.
[ORIGIN medieval Latin *capellanus*: see CHAPLAIN.]
A chaplain; a keeper of sacred relics.

capellini /kə'pɛlɪni/ *noun* pl. M20.
[ORIGIN Italian = little hairs.]
A variety of pasta consisting of very thin strands.

caper /'keɪpər/ *noun*, LME.
[ORIGIN French *capres* or Latin *caparis* from Greek *kapparis*: treated as pl.]
1 A trailing shrub, *Capparis spinosa*, of southern Europe. LME.
2 *usu.* in pl. 1a The flower buds of this shrub, used for pickling and served esp. in a sauce. E15. 1b The seed pods of other plants, e.g. nasturtium, used similarly; any such plant. Cf. *bean caper* s.v. *bean* noun 1b.

3 A kind of scented tea. E18.
— **COMB.** caper spurge an ornamental poisonous spurge, *Rhynchospora latifolia*.

caper /'keɪpər/ *noun*, E16.
[ORIGIN Abbreviation of *CAPRIOLE* noun.]
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capillary /'kæpɪləri/ *noun*, M16.
[ORIGIN 1 from Latin *capillaris*, late Latin *capillaris herba* maidenhair; 2 from Latin *capillus* hair.]
A syrup of maidenhair fern; a syrup flavoured with orange-flower water.

capillament /kə'pɪləmənt/ *noun*, E17-M19.
[ORIGIN Latin *capillamentum* the hair collectively, from *capillus* hair.]
A hairlike fibre, a filament.

capillarity /kə'pɪlərɪti/ *noun*, M19.
[ORIGIN French *capillarité*, formed as *CAPILLARY* + *-ITY*.]
Capillary attraction or repulsion; the property of exerting this.

capillary /kə'pɪləri/ *adjective & noun*, M17.
[ORIGIN Latin *capillaris*, from *capillus* hair, after Old French & mod. French *capillaire*: see *-ARY*.]
► **As an adjective.** 1 Of or pertaining to hair; hairlike, esp. in texture. M17.
2 Of a tube etc.: having a hairlike bore. M17.
3 Of, pertaining to, or occurring in capillaries. E19.

capillary attraction, capillary repulsion the tendency of liquid in a capillary tube to rise, recede, as a result of surface forces.

capillary vessel 1 A capillary vessel; esp. any of the extremely narrow blood vessels which form a network between the arterioles and venules. M17.

2 A fern, esp. the maidenhair. M17-M18.

► **Also as an adjective.** LME-U17.

capillitium /kə'pɪlɪtiəm/ *noun*, M19.
[ORIGIN Latin a hair collectively, from *capillus* hair.]
Mycology. Spore-containing fibrous tissue in the sporangia of certain fungi.

capital /'kæpɪtəl/ *noun*, M16.
[ORIGIN Old French *capitol* (mod. *capitole*) from late Latin *capitolium* dim. of *caput*, *capit* head; mod. spelling -al through assoc. with *CAPITOL* adjective & noun.]
1 The head or cornice of a pillar or column. ME.
2 The cap of a chimney, crucible, etc. E18.

capital /'kæpɪtəl/ *adjective & noun*, ME.
[ORIGIN Old French & mod. French from Latin *capitalis*, from *caput*, *capit* head: see *-AL*.]
► **As an adjective.** 1 Relating to the head.
11 Of or pertaining to the head or top. ME-M17.
2 Involving loss of the head or life; vitally harmful, fatal. LME. 11b Of an enemy, enmity: deadly, mortal. LME-M18.

1c Of a crime etc.: punishable by death. E16.

CANTON To have capital sentence & be beheaded.
fig. W. H. PEARSON In the outset, he seems to have fallen into a capital error.

► **As a noun.** 1 Standing at the head (lit. & fig.).
2 Chief, principal; important, leading. LME.

W. BLACKSTONE The eldest son had the capital fee of his father's possessions. T. WATSON The cloister of some capital monastery. R. W. DARE The old tradition made Obedience the capital virtue of childhood.

4 Orig. (of a letter or word), standing at the head of a page, passage, etc. Now (of a letter), having the form and size used to begin a sentence, proper name, etc. LME.

W. VAN T. CLARK When Joyce spoke about Davies he said 'he' as if it had a capital H.

5 — **with a capital A** (or similar phr.) emphatically a —, the real or quintessential a —.

5 Of funds, stock, etc.: original, serving as a basis for commercial or financial operations. E18.

ADAM SMITH The capital stock of Great Britain was not diminished even by the enormous expense of the late war.

6 Excellent, first-rate. Freq. as an exclamation of approval, colloq. M18.

B. JOWETT Capital, Socrates; by the gods, that is truly good. A. MOSCOWITZ He is a capital officer, zealous and untiring in the performance of his duties.

► **As a noun.** 1 A capital letter. LME.
small capitals: see small adjective.

2 The stock with which a company or person enters into business; the total sum of shareholders' contributions in a joint-stock company; accumulated wealth, esp. as used in further production. M16. 1b The holders of wealth as a class; capitalists, employers of labour. M19.

3 (You began ill.) You set up your trade without a capital. F. MACMILLAN Lack of capital prevented Nat's buying a practice. H. MACMILLAN A widespread desire that economic development should be supported by British capital. B. W. HOBBS Here gallant labour, with nothing to lose but its chains, would fight entrenched and armed Capital.

fixed capital invested in permanent assets such as land, buildings, machinery, etc. make capital out of fig. turn to account, turn to one's own advantage. organic composition of capital: see organic adjective, refugee capital: see refugee adjective, working capital: available for the actual carrying on of business.

3 A capital town or city. M17.

— **SPECIAL COLLOCATIONS & COMB.** capital adequacy the statutory minimum reserves of capital which a bank or other financial institution must have available. capital gain profit from the sale of investments or property. capital goods goods (to be) used in producing commodities, as opp. to consumer goods. capital-intensive adjective requiring much use of capital. capital levy

to but, d dog, f few, g get, h he, j yes, k cat, l leg, m man, n no, p pen, r red, s sit, t top, v van, w we, z zoo, f she, g vision, o thin, o this, o ring, o clip, o jar

EXHIBIT B